

## WHIPPING-POSTS AGAIN.

Efforts of Prominent New Yorkers  
in This Direction.

What It Is Hoped to Accomplish Through  
Such a Law—To Be Employed Only  
for Wife-Beaters and Brutal  
Thugs.

New York proposes to attempt to revive the system of corporal punishment for certain classes of offenders. At least certain people in New York, led by Elbridge T. Gerry, will try to have the following made a law at the next session of the legislature:

"Whenever a male person shall be convicted of a felony consisting of or accompanied by the infliction of physical pain or suffering upon the person of another, the court may, in its discretion, in addition to that penalty now prescribed by law, impose an additional sentence of corporal punishment to be inflicted upon the offender in the prison to which he shall be sentenced. Such corporal punishment shall be inflicted in private in said prison, in the presence of the warden and surgeon thereof, who shall certify the fact to the court wherein it was imposed."

Commodore Gerry is very much in earnest in the matter, and in an interview with a reporter for the New York Recorder stoutly defended the plan on the ground that it provided for the only punishment that is really feared by the brutes that it is intended to reach.

"Crime," said he, "of the more brutal and fiendish character is frightfully on the increase, especially in the case where children of both sexes are the victims. Instances in which lifelong injuries have been inflicted on girls and boys of a tender age are becoming so numerous that it is time something was done to strike at the very root of evil, and I am sure the only weapon that can be effectively used against the brutes who, in their passions, exhibit no thought or feeling for their victims is the lash.

"Once let the brutal element of the community know that the pain and suffering inflicted by them on others will be meted out on their own bodies and the shocking state of affairs now existing will be to a great extent wiped out. I am thankful to say that the creatures responsible for the offenses are foreigners. The grade of crime against which the resolution is aimed is peculiar to men from other countries. And the only way to show these wretches that they cannot indulge in such things in this continent is the crack and the sting of the lash.

"It has been erroneously stated that wife-beaters are included among the creatures against whom we are fighting. This is not so. We are only advocating the lash for felony committed by men. Wife-beaters belong to another class of animals which may or may not deserve a good thrashing. They, however, do not enter into the discussion. Burglary with violence, as-

sault of any brutal nature—those are the offenders who, I maintain, should feel the sting of the lash. A conviction of twenty years, reduced by good behavior to twelve, has no salutary effect on the callous element with which I am dealing.

"As an instance, you, a law-abiding, peaceful citizen, are enjoying a well-earned rest; a hardened brute of a burglar, not satisfied with plunder, deliberately knocks you over the head, puts your eye out, crushes in your skull, maims you, beats you, and for this he gets twenty years. Is that any satisfaction to you? Do you get a new eye or another skull or a clean skin? No! Then I say let his punishment be proportionate in some degree to the offense.

"Formerly crimes of which I specially speak were punishable by death. But experience showed that the class of people that commit these crimes of personal violence don't dread death. Nihilists, anarchists, atheists and the more degraded classes scout the idea. Corporal punishment is the only thing the scamps and rascals are afraid of. A few years in prison doesn't have any deterrent effect. A man comes out of prison and he immediately perpetrates a similar crime, but if he understands that he is going to get a dose of that which he inflicts on other people, he thinks twice before he runs the risk.

"It is nonsense to play the fool with criminals and say that corporal punishment is degrading and a revival of the dark ages. Are the abuses inflicted on little children degrading? Was there anything in the dark ages more debasing than the revolting acts which occur to-day? There seems to be a mawkish sensibility in the opposition to corporal punishment. It is the oldest form of punishment known, and it is to be found in the Mosaic law. There can be nothing brutal in it, provided you don't make the exhibition public. In Delaware they have a curious method. A felon is sentenced to thirty lashes, fifteen of which are administered. He is then told to get out of the state, and if he is found there after the lapse of a week the balance of the thirty lashes awaits him. The plan works admirably.

"Again, in London, when the garroters were terrorizing the city, the cat-o'-nine-tails was brought into play with such effect that garroting was unknown in a very short space of time. Would I suggest any particular mode of administering the punishment? No. The ordinary lash on the back would meet all requirements. It is effective, and if I live long enough the advisability of its legalization will come before the next session of the legislature."

### A Tablet for a King.

A tablet recently set up at Naples commemorates the bravest act done by a king in this century, the visit of King Humbert to the cholera sufferers in 1884. It stands near the spot where the excommunicated king, Cardinal San Felice and the archbishop of Naples met while passing through the hospital in the performance of their duty.

## ANTS AGAINST SNAKE.

Numbers Won in a Long and Exciting  
Battle.

"While camping in Alabama during the late war," said Col. H. C. Crossman of Dayton, O., according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "I witnessed an attack of a band of black ants upon a striped snake.

"One evening, while I was trying to go to sleep, after a long day's march, I felt something move under my head. I lifted one corner of the blanket and found a snake between three and four feet in length. I quickly hit it with a small stick, but the reptile seemed hardly stunned by the blow, so I picked it up on the end of the stick and threw it about fifteen feet away. The snake landed on a large ant hill. Almost instantly the ants poured forth from their nest, which was underneath, and began a vigorous attack upon the intruder, who was soon covered by scores of his assailants, biting him fearfully. The battle raged with fury, the snake writhing about in torture.

"The contest at first seemed an unequal one, for the snake was rapidly thinning out his persecutors, but on the other hand the ants were numerous and quick in their aggressive movements. The snake with one blow of his tail would kill or wound a long line of ants, but the active little creatures were soon reinforced by fresh troops and fought with a desperation wonderful to behold. I was astonished beyond measure to see the tactics of the ants. When they saw their numbers were being lessened they dispatched couriers for fresh relays of soldiers, who appeared on the scene in due time to replace the killed or wounded.

"The moon after a time lit up the scene, but as there appeared no near termination of the struggle I gave up watching it and, stretching myself again on my blanket, went to sleep. Before striking tents the next morning I went to look at the battle ground. The slain insects were scattered in every direction, but there were still a few even watchful ants upon the back of the snake, which lay stretched out dead near the ant hill."

## HEALTH IN CORN BREAD.

This Accounts for the Good Condition of  
the Southern Laborer.

Behold the average colored laborer on a southern plantation, said Hon. P. B. Winston, of Minnesota and Virginia, recently. How fat and sleek he looks; how his shining eyes and smooth, ebony skin reveal the robust physical man. He is a type of perfect health, and to what does he owe his superb condition? I'll tell you in two words—corn bread. There is the grandest food product in the world, and all honor to the noble American who is trying to teach the old world people the various delicious uses of corn bread and the many palatable ways it can be prepared for the table.

If it were not for corn I don't know how many of the poor people of Virginia, white and black, would exist. It is really the mainstay of life in